

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) Mixed-media data encoding apparatus, in which said mixed-media data includes a plurality of data types, comprising encoding means configured to encode said mixed-media data to prevent unauthorised access and; storage means configured to store said encoded data, wherein user access to said data is possible in response to an accessing activity performed by a user and, in a first level access, a first set of user modifications may be made to for editing a first set of said data types in response to a first accessing activity and, in a second level access, a second set of user modifications may be made ~~to~~ for editing a second set of said data types in response to a second accessing activity.
2. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means is a local hard drive, a removable disk, a Compact Disc Read-Only Media or a Digital Versatile Disk.
3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising data distribution means for distributing said encoded data over a distribution channel.
4. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said distribution channel is a television broadcast channel or the Internet.
5. (Currently Amended) Encoded mixed-media data decoding apparatus, in which said data includes a plurality of data types, comprising receiving means arranged to receive an encoded media data file; and activity responsive means configured to respond to an accessing activity, wherein a first accessing activity provides a first level of access for modifying a first set of said data types and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access for modifying a second of set said data types.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said receiving means includes a disk reader, a Compact Disc Read-Only Media reader, a Digital Versatile Disk reader, an Internet connection or a television receiver.
7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said receiving means includes decryption means configured to decrypt an encrypted portion of the media data, including said data types, with the assistance of data read from a non-encrypted portion to produce decrypted data.
8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said activity responsive means is configured to read an access defining portion of said decrypted data to determine the nature of said accessing activities.
9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said access defining portion of said decrypted data defines a plurality of passwords and said activity responsive means is responsive to said passwords being identified so as to provide a particular level of access to said data.
10. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said activity responsive means is responsive to passwords being entered manually by a user.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding mixed-media data, in which said data includes a plurality of media data types, comprising encoding said media data to prevent unauthorised access, wherein user access to said media data is possible in response to an accessing activity performed by a user; and access to said media data is responsive to a plurality of accessing activities in which a first accessing activity provides a first level of access for modifying a first set of said media data types and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access for modifying a second set of said media data types.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein said media data types include motion data, model data, deformation parameters, constraints, expressions or relations, textures, colour values, cameras, lights, video, audio, device information, a timeline or user data or any combination of these data types.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein said encoding includes adding access passwords to produce an internal file with passwords.
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein said encoding includes encrypting said internal file to produce an encrypted internal file.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein said encoding includes adding an encryption key or a portion of said encryption key to a header to produce an encoded export file.
16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said encoding adds random data to selected positions of said header.
17. (Currently Amended) A method of decoding encoded media data, in which said media data includes a plurality of image related and/or audio related data types, comprising receiving an encoded media data file; and performing an activity in order to gain access to one or more of said data types, wherein a first accessing activity provides a first level of access for modifying a first set of said data types and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access for modifying a second set of said data types.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said activity comprises identifying a password.
19. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said first level of access provides for the rendering and playback of three-dimensional data so as to produce two-dimensional output.
20. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said second level of access allows behaviour triggering to be modified.
21. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein a third accessing activity provides a third level of access that allows scene control.
22. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein a fourth accessing activity provides a fourth level of access that allows clip libraries to be modified.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein a fifth accessing activity provides a fifth level of access that allows animation to be edited.
24. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein a sixth accessing activity provides a sixth level of access that allows model editing and texture editing to be performed.
25. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein a seventh accessing activity provides a seventh level of access that allows full control to the data.
26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions, a computer will perform a process comprising: encoding said media data to prevent unauthorized access, wherein user access to said media data is possible in response to an accessing activity performed by a user; and access to said media data is responsive to a plurality of accessing activities in which a first accessing activity provides a first level of access for modifying a first set of said media data and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access for modifying a second set of said media data.
27. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions a computer will perform a method in accordance with any of claims 12 to 16.
28. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions, a computer will perform a process comprising: receiving an encoded media data file including a plurality of data types; and performing an activity in order to gain access to one or more of said data types, wherein a first accessing activity provides a first level of access for modifying a first set of said data types and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access for modifying a second set of said data types.
29. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions a computer will perform a method in accordance with any of claims 18 to 25.

30. (Original) A media data format for communicating media data from a source station to a destination station in an encoded form, in which said media data includes a plurality of image related and/or audio related data types, wherein: media data is encoded at a transmitting station; said encoded data is transmitted to a receiving station; and said transmitted data is decoded at a receiving station, wherein said transmitted encoded data includes data fields configured to allow levels of access to a user in response to particular user access activities.

31. (Original) A media data format according to claim 30, wherein said media data types include motion capture data, model data, deformation parameters, constraints, expressions or relations, textures, colour values, cameras, lights, video, audio, device information or a timeline or any combination of these data types.

32. (Original) A media data format according to claim 30, wherein said encoded data includes a header containing an encryption key or a portion of said encryption key.

33. (Original) A media data format according to claim 32, wherein said header includes random data at selected positions in said header.

34. (Original) A media data format according to claim 32, wherein said encoded data includes an encrypted portion encrypted by said encryption key.

35. (Original) A media data format according to claim 34, wherein said encrypted portion includes mixed-media data types and access passwords.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a first data field for mixed-media data and a second data field for access data, wherein said mixed-media data includes a plurality of data types; and said access data is used to determine the validity of an accessing activity, wherein a first accessing activity provides a first level of access ~~to~~ for modifying a first set of said mixed-media data and a second accessing activity provides a second level of access ~~to~~ for modifying a second set of said mixed-media data.

37. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein said first level of access provides for the rendering and playback of three-dimensional data so as to produce two-dimensional output.
38. (Original) A computer readable medium to claim 36, wherein said second level of access allows behaviour triggering to be modified.
39. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein a third accessing activity provides a third level of access that allows scene control.
40. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein a fourth accessing activity provides a fourth level of access that allows clip libraries to be modified.
41. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein a fifth accessing activity provides a fifth level of access that allows animation to be edited.
42. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein a sixth accessing activity provides a sixth level of access that allows model editing and texture editing to be performed.
43. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein a seventh accessing activity provides a seventh level of access that allows full control to the data.
44. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein said first data field for media data and said second data field for accessing data are encrypted.
45. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 44, including a header having an encryption key or part of an encryption key embedded therein to facilitate the decryption of said encrypted data fields.